Remarks/Arguments

The Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 - 4 and 6 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitation of the base claim.

Claim Summary

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 14, and 19 are amended.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Drawings

Figure 9 has been redrawn to remove references numerals 28 and 60.

Claims Objection

Claim 4 has been amended to replace "photoelectric transformation part" with – photoelectric transformation unit --, therefore, antecedent basis is provided in claim 1.

Claim 6 has been amended to replace "firs" with -- first --, thereby correcting the typographical error.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 5, and 13 -19 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshimura et al. (US 5,898,477) as detailed in pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a photoelectric transformation unit is capable of moving between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation devices are juxtaposed with the aperture of the diaphragm along the optical axis of the illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation devices are offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system. In other words, the photoelectric transformation unit is moved in and out of the optical axis of the illumination system.

Therefore, amended claim 1 of the present application now recites in part, an illumination system comprising **a diaphragm** having *an adjustable aperture,* **a photoelectric transformation unit** having a plurality of photoelectric transformation devices (PTDs) each of which is capable of sensing the energy level of light incident thereon, a **drive mechanism** connected to and supporting said photoelectric transformation unit and operable to move the photoelectric transformation unit between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is juxtaposed with the aperture of the diaphragm along the optical axis of the illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system.

However, Yoshimura et al. fails to disclose a drive mechanism operable to move the photoelectric transformation unit between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is juxtaposed with the aperture of the diaphragm along the optical axis of the illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation devices are offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system. Nor does Yoshimura et al. disclose that a photoelectric transformation unit is capable of being offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system. Yoshimura et al. discloses an illuminance monitor A#12,

which detects light divided by a half mirror 5. Column 5, lines 2-5. The illuminance monitor A#12 is not juxtaposed with the slit along the optical axis of the illumination system.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 and claims 2-13, which directly or indirectly depend on claim 1, are patentable over Yoshimura et al.

Independent claim 14 and 19 have been amended to recite in part, "a photoelectric transformation unit having a plurality of photoelectric transformation devices (PTDs), wherein the photoelectric transformation unit is operable to move between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is juxtaposed with the aperture of the diaphragm along the optical axis of the illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system." It is the Applicants belief and as remarked above, theses features are not taught or suggested by Yoshimura et al.

As remarked above, Yoshimura et al. fails to teach or suggest a method where a drive mechanism is operable to move a photoelectric transformation unit between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is juxtaposed with an aperture of a diaphragm along the optical axis of the illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation devices are offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 and 19, and claims 15-18, which directly depend on claims 14, are allowable for at least the reasons stated above over the Yoshimura et al. reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 7-12 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. (US 5,898,477) as detailed in page 4 of the Office Action. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7-12 directly or indirectly depend on independent claim 1; however, as argued above against the §102(b) rejection, the Applicants is of the belief that Yoshimura et al. fails to disclose a drive mechanism operable to move a photoelectric transformation unit between a first position at which the photoelectric transformation unit is juxtaposed with an aperture of a diaphragm along the optical axis of an illumination system and a second position at which the photoelectric transformation devices are offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system. Nor does Yoshimura et al. disclose that the photoelectric transformation unit is capable of being offset from the aperture with respect to the optical axis of the illumination system.

For at least the reasons above, the Applicants are of the belief that claims 7-12 are patentable over the cited Yoshimura et al. reference individually or in combination.

Conclusion

No other issues remain, reconsideration and favorable action upon claims 1 - 19 present in the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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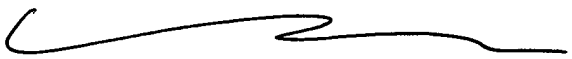

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Date: March 08, 2005

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